

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE: JRRATIGAN:RAH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, US, GR

SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS - POSSIBLE "TO VIMA" SERIES
OF ARTICLES

1. COUNSELOR NIMETZ MET WITH GREEK-AMERICAN PROFESSOR NICK STAVROU OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES JUNE 16, AT LATTER'S REQUEST, FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF U.S. POLICY IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. INTERVIEW, CONDUCTED ON "DEEP BACKGROUND" BASIS, WAS IN PREPARATION FOR SERIES OF ARTICLES STAVROU WILL WRITE FOR ATHENS DAILY "TO VIMA" WHICH WILL PROBABLY APPEAR IN LATE JULY. PRIOR TO NIMETZ
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MEETING, STAVROU HAD OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS MET WITH OTHER DEPTOFFS.

2. NIMETZ BRIEFLY REVIEWED DETERIORATION IN RECENT YEARS OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH GREECE, TURKEY, AND CYPRUS, AND RECOUNTED CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION UPON TAKING OFFICE TO (A) IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EACH COUNTRY,

(B) ADOPT POLICY WHICH WOULD BE PERCEIVED AS MORE EVEN-HANDED, AND (C) IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS VIA INCREASED CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION. NIMETZ THOUGHT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE: BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED, POLICY WAS AS EVEN-HANDED AS WE COULD MAKE IT, AND CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS WERE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, THOUGH THEY

WOULD NEVER BE PERFECT. WE HAVE STRUCK UP AND MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, A GENUINE DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO IT.

3. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GREECE, NIMETZ THOUGHT ATMOSPHERICS AND TO LESSER EXTENT SUBSTANCE WERE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, NOTING THAT GOG HAD WELCOMED U.S. INITIATIVES IN AREA, AND CARTER-CARAMANLIS LONDON MEETING HAD GONE WELL.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTION RE WILLINGNESS OF THREE GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL U.S. EFFORTS ON CYPRUS, NIMETZ WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT EITHER GREECE OR TURKEY WOULD FAVOR MORE ACTIVE U.S. ROLE OR ANY CHANGE IN NEGOTIATING FORMAT. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD, HOWEVER, BENEFIT FROM OUTSIDE IMPETUS. WHILE UN PROVIDES USEFUL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, POLITICAL WILL AND PUSH ARE ESSENTIAL. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT PUBLIC PRESSURE WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, WE THOUGHT SEVERAL FACTORS MIGHT COALESCE TO CAUSE TURKEY

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TO ADOPT MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON CYPRUS.

5. ON THE AEGEAN, WHICH STAVROU CALLED EVEN MORE CRITICAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUE THAN CYPRUS, NIMETZ NOTED THAT ON TECHNICAL LEVEL ALONE ISSUE WAS IMMENSELY COMPLEX, AND THAT ADDITION OF EMOTIONAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS COMPLICATED MATTERS TO POINT WHERE SOLUTION WAS DIFFICULT TO ENVISION. U.S. POLICY IS TO (A) URGE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION AND AVOIDANCE OF PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS, (B) ENCOURAGE DIRECT TALKS IN HOPE THAT NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES AND PERHAPS SOLUTION OF SMALLER ISSUES CAN TAKE PLACE. VANCE

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